

VPP: QUADRANT HOMES Receives STAR at all ten residential development sites

Quadrant Homes Awarded VPP STAR Status for Worker Safety & Health

Quadrant Homes is the first residential construction company in the nation and Washington State to be awarded the prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) "STAR". Quadrant Homes and their ten residential development sites located in the Puget Sound area received national and state recognition for excellence in workplace safety and health programs by the Department of Labor and Industries - Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) through the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

Quadrant Homes becomes the 10th through 21st Washington employer to be recognized as a VPP STAR.

Quadrant Homes' residential construction sites became the tenth through twenty-first Washington worksites to be recognized for this elite STAR status. There are 1337 such sites across the nation of which only 45 are construction sites. Through the combined commitment of Quadrant Homes, their Superintendents, Subcontractors, and Vendors/Suppliers and in partnership with WISHA they were able to achieve this elite recognition of their safety and health programs. The VPP STAR plaques and flags were presented by Gary Weeks, Director of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, along with other representatives on August 30th at a celebration ceremony and luncheon for workers, contractors, subcontractors, dignitaries and guests at the Northlake Ridge Community Park in Federal Way. Gary Weeks read a letter of congratulations from Governor Christine Gregoire to the attendees on Quadrant Homes' achievement. Peter Orser, President of Quadrant Homes; Dan Fulton, President of Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company; Rich Hansen, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Weyerhaeuser; Wes Guyer, Construction Manager of Quadrant Homes all spoke on efforts leading to VPP STAR status and congratulated the site's superintendents and contractors' management and employees on their achievements and commitment in construction safety and health.

Quadrant Homes thanked the core group of subcontractors/vendors and their 1000 plus employees for their efforts contributing towards achieving the VPP STAR. Quadrant Homes stated, "That without their continued support and commitment to safety and health, this STAR award could not have been attained."



Peter Orser, President Quadrant Homes receives VPP plaque for Quadrant Homes



Showing the Star Flag: left to right - Gary Weeks, Director, WA State Dept. of Labor and Industries and Peter Orser, President, Quadrant Homes

Hazards Associated with Construction is High

The potential hazards at this worksite are those typically associated with a residential construction projects, including machinery with moving parts, electrical hazards, aerial lifts, cranes, hoists, rigging, earthmoving equipment, excavations, scaffolds, material handling equipment, ergonomic hazards, walking/working surfaces, ladders, confined space hazards, high noise levels, silica exposures, fall hazards and hazardous chemicals. Despite these hazards, the site has achieved over the past 36 months they have been in operation an excellent safety record. Both the total case incident rate (TCIR) of 2.9 and the day's away-restricted transferred incident rate (DARTIR) of 1.4 are well below the national average for their standard industrial classification. The site TCIR is 50 percent below and the DARTIR is 56 percent below the last three years available of the (BLS) industry national averages for similar residential construction sites.



Wes Guyer, Construction Manager Quadrant Homes addresses audience



Left to right: Dan Fulton, President of Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company receives congratulatory hand shake from Gary Weeks, Director, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

To qualify for the VPP designation, Quadrant Homes had to meet the criteria of a 19-point program promoting worker safety and health excellence and submit a VPP application. A team of nine Washington Department of Labor and Industries (WISHA) safety and health evaluators surveyed each site over a three week period. The written programs, documentation and worksite conditions were extensively reviewed and more than 194 construction site workers were interviewed.

The VPP STAR status was approved on June 23, 2005 and was conferred for Quadrant Homes' leadership, commitment, excellent safety record and extensive employee participation in a continual safety and health improvement program. Being a VPP STAR site is a very prestigious recognition for excellence in safety and health, which is earned by a worksite every day through their commitment and efforts. For more information from Quadrant homes contact Holly Rainwater, Safety Manager at 425/452-0349 and for more information on the VPP contact Ken Werenko, WISHA VPP at (360/902-5515)